

# Merry Christmas Moonbeams

BY COLONEL LITTLE

The Smallest Newspaper in the West

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## The Glorious Yuletide Holidays are ripe in the Valley of the Moon

And we do most sincerely wish every reader the finest and merriest Christmas ever. We too are plenty happy this year. In 1954 we couldn't see; at a dinner party we proceeded to tip over a glass of burgundy on a beautiful lace dinner cloth, and had to guess at what was being served. All so different now. May the good Lord bless everybody!

**BANCROFT'S NURSERY**, So. Broadway, Sonoma, for potted plants, shrubs, Xmas poinsettias and decorations. Wonderful selections.  
**MIKE & ROSE'S BOYES SPRINGS MARKET**, always your best bet for high quality meats. This week, a Merry Christmas to you all.  
**VALLEY WATCH REPAIR**, Boyes. Thank you all for a wonderful Christmas season, and may you all live long and prosper.

Just finished reading a Digest of the Bible. Counting that, it makes about the fourth time. And still haven't found what we'd like to know. Ferinstance: Just who wrote the Bible? When? How much veracity had they? Can they prove much of anything, from 'way back in Moses' time, and Christ's? What was the world like 'way back—

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population, type of government, the economic status of the peoples. If the Jews were the choice as God's people, why have they been persecuted for centuries? When we learn some of these answers maybe we'll feel differently.

Our entire belief is that there is some kind of supreme power; that Christ was the greatest man who ever lived, and that if everybody would live up to His teachings, or try to mighty hard, it would be a wonderful world. And the Bible (some parts have been left out, and others should have been) is a wonderful piece of writing, exceptionally good literature.

Now come all ye faithful, and give us a little dickens.

**CHRISTMAS DINNER at ROZARIO'S PALMS INN, Verano.** Young tom turkey is the special, but there's ham, chops, steaks, too. **AND NEW YEAR'S EVE!** Big party. No cover charge. The Three Aces will play. Favors, fun, general hilarity. Join us, won't you?

**SONOMA FURNITURE MART, So. Broadway,** wishes to extend a sincere wish for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

For some reason or other, every car we've owned (a dozen anyway, two of them brand new) leaks when it rains, the floor gets all wet, sometimes the rain leaks down on our ankles. Is it we have been unlucky, or do all cars act that way?

**VALLEY DRUG STORE, Boyes** (your best last-minute supply house). We wish you a mighty fine and satisfying Holiday Season.

**SONOMA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB** should be on your list this season. The holiday spirit permeates the entire establishment.

**MAC DONALD'S JEWELRY, Sonoma.** An exceptional store, with large stocks of name brands, plus friendly, experienced service.

At long last the democrats have a chance to nominate a good man, one we could vote for if Ike doesn't run. But in this part of the country at least, it wouldn't seem he's got a ghost of a chance. That's Lausche, five times elected governor of Ohio. The radicals don't like him a little bit.

**New dance floor. Special New Year's party** you'll not want to miss. Special menu, too. **PAUL'S OLD RANCHERO, Verano.**

**B & L LAUNDROMAT, Fetters.** Trouble with drying your wash nowadays? Wash and dry right here, a little time, small cost.

Vern's Thrifty dress shop has moved from one side of the Boyes theater to the other, nearest town, and it's a vast improvement. Maybe you could well look over her stocks, even if it's almost Christmas eve. For the Last Minute Present, get a box of cigars, carton of cigarets or a tin of tobacco. You'll go over. **BOB'S CIGAR STORE, Sonoma.** **RUGGLES VARIETY STORE, Sonoma.** Your last-minute tree ornaments are here, in quantity. Stop in. And a Merry Christmas!



And did it rain Sunday! The current storm started a week ago on Friday and has been more or less constant up to press time. No particular trouble caused in this immediate area, but up at Russian river, and even Schellville, highways in some places were impassable. But we certainly can use all the rain we get in this part of the nation. Hate to see all that water rushing toward the ocean, every spring. A string of dams could store up a lot of it, and make unnecessary much of the expense we're going to in bringing water here from far-away places. It's a crime not to hang on to some of this water, and use it for irrigation.

**DONOVAN'S IRISH INN**, opp. Bath House. Kinda slowin' down on lunches for the winter, but still with you with wine and beer. **BROADWAY CAFE**, Sonoma. It's a friendly place, and of course, right now, everything is holidayish. Make us prove it.

Yes, we know that San Franciscans are said to hate the use of "Frisco" to designate their town, though we've never been able to figure out just why. It's really a term of endearment, it fits into headlines so easily, and we find nothing wrong with it. Los Angeles residents don't object to L.A. And did you know they had a big hassle down there as to the proper pronunciation of the words. Decision of the judges, after many weeks of study, was that the proper pronunciation is and forever will be Loss AN-gee-les, with the accent on the An. **THE BEST FOOD** and drinks you can find in the Valley. Bring your guests here. Try our steaks. **MENDEL'S CAFE**, Boyes. **POWDER BOX BEAUTY SHOP**, Arnold drive at Ellis'. Same fine equipment and beauty service you've learned to expect.

**FOR — REDWOOD HANGING BASKET or PATIO PLANTER**  
Mail \$1.55 to P. O. BOX 398, EL VERANO, CALIF.

And it's going to be quite a Christmas hereabouts, speaking generally of those establishments which serve food and drink. Paul's Old Rancho has just put in service a new maple floor, and patrons may dance every evening—to the music of the Dixie Six New Year's eve. Reservations are coming in fast, the total to be kept at 225.

There's going to be a high old time at Sonoma Golf and Country club, with the house about sold out already. Rozario's Palms Inn is serving a complete young tom turkey dinner Christmas day, at minimum cost, and will be packed to the rafters New Year's eve. Sonoma Grove is really splurging on its New Year's eve party this year. Mission Inn is preparing to host another of its delightful year-end parties.

The not-quite-so-flossy places will get a big play—name 'em, they'll all be ready for you—from Christmas to New Year's and in between. There are several establishments which have a seasonal license and they mostly will close January 1 for three months, but winding up with real celebrations.



**FIRESIDE LODGE**, just west of Sonoma, Hiway 12. Barbecuing is our long suit—steaks, chops, ribs, chicken. Cocktail bar.

**BUD THOMPSON**, barber extraordinary, at the Plaza next to Mendel's, Boyes. Hair styling as you've wanted it. Haircuts supreme!

We asked for it—and got it. A 100 per cent union man writes us an interesting letter (with clippings) chiding us for our antipathy toward labor union leaders (?) (not the members, who can't help themselves). But he asks us not to print the letter, so we'll just have to say he's probably a nice guy and we'd even like to talk things over with him. Only we've never yet found a rabid union man with whom you can discuss anything. They all get mad. Don't know much about "brain washing," but think we can see the signs—too many of them.

**BOYES VARIETY STORE** is your best bet for last minute shopping. Stocks still plentiful. And a Merry Christmas to you. Italian Cuisine for the discriminating. American dishes too. **SONOMA GROVE**, Highway 12, south of Boyes. Cocktail bar.

The other day four kids crossed highway 12 at a point where there is no crossing. A big truck bore down on them, but stopped in plenty of time and let the kids cross in safety. Later we saw the truck its driver. Read "Atlas Paper Co." on the side, and the driver said "Why not? I've got two kids of my own." But his considerate action is mighty unusual. If more truck drivers would act accordingly, what an overall improvement it would be.

**CHRYSTAL'S SMART SHOP**, Plaza Center Bldg., Boyes Springs

Smart Apparel      Women's ware      Hosiery      Lingerie  
Conventions, banquets, dinners—all have a perfect setting at  
**SONOMA MISSION INN**, Boyes. Friendly, sumptuous, perfect!

Getting a little bit soured on our secretary of state, the Hon. John Foster Dulles. Never was enthusiastic, but of late he appears to have lost whatever grip he had on world affairs. Probably he should be replaced by someone a little younger, a little wiser, a little peppier individual. No suggestions.

**MELINA and HARVEY at OUR RESORT**, El Verano, extend to you all a very sincere wish for the Happiest of Holiday Seasons.

**JOHNNIE MERLO**, at **EL DORADO HOTEL**, Sonoma, wishes you all a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

If they go ahead and spend twice as much for foreign aid next year, the people should rise up and throw the rascals out! And we're a republican. Or better, an independent. The war has been over 10 years, and it certainly shouldn't be up to us to hold up all the nations indefinitely. And it hasn't stopped the reds a bit. It plays directly into the plans of the commies, to drain ourselves of our money and resources until things really go haywire. Let's give a good look at our own country and extend a little Point Four assistance at home.

**GERTRUDE DETERS**, Box 396, El Verano. Representative for National Monument Co., also finest calendars, matches, printing,  
**SAM FRISCIA**, Wholesale-Retail **SEAFOOD**. Craig Ave., off Arnold Drive. Cooked Crabs (we crack and clean), prawns, filets, abalone.

Got to run out tomorrow (December 24) and do our Christmas shopping. 'Sno fun buying 'way ahead of time, say we. Might even find a Christmas office party somewhere before the afternoon is over. But the missus says we're to leave the car at home, which is a wonderful idea.

**SOL D. BECKER SELLS REAL ESTATE—  
Every Once in Awhile**

**EL VERANO LUMBER & HARDWARE**. Pittsburgh Paints. Complete stocks of Building Materials and Hardware. Ph. WE 8-2289.

Maybe we'll have to start getting a humor magazine before long, and use the shears. Actually running out of material on the lighter side, and firmly believe this compendium of the highest type of good literature really should contain a dash of the funnier stuff.

**BUD'S GARAGE**, Calle del Monte, opp. Food Center, Boyes. Your best bet for car repair work of all kinds. Work guaranteed.

**GLEN ELLEN LIQUOR STORE**. On Arnold Drive. Complete selection of fine wines and liquors. "SLIM" WALLACE.

Bought a handful of chestnuts at the Food Center the other day, and the missus got 'em all roasted. In fact, one sorta blew up in the oven and nearly scared the daylight out of her. The chestnuts appeared to have a sweeter taste than we had remembered. Used to buy them from vendors after midnight in the downtown streets of Cincinnati.

Real estate headquarters — sales or rentals — **WOODS-FRANQUELIN CO.**, Boyes Springs Branch. Fast service. Personal attention.  
**RICHFIELD SERVICE** in Boyes, Plaza corner. **BUD DELANEY** will serve you with the finest gas, oil, lubricants, tires, batteries.

Latst bulletin from the medic experts: Cigar and pipes are safer for smoking purposes than cigarettes. That is, certainly, as far as danger from possible cancer is concerned. You'll look much more dignified, anyway. Change over.

**LITTLE SWITZERLAND**, El Verano. Old-world atmosphere. Dancing Saturday nights, Sunday afternoons. Well worth visiting.

**GALLO BROS.**, Boyes. Franchised DeSoto and Plymouth dealers. Repair department. Towing service. Call WE 8-5415.

A major improvement hereabouts would be the widening of highway 12 from Santa Rosa to Napa. It's dangerous now and getting more so each day, each month, each year. Somebody's missed a good issue in not making the project a major objective.



**VERN'S THRIFTY DRESS SHOP**, Boyes Theater Bldg. Ladies' high class clothes at prices you won't believe. Nothing like it!

**RUSTIC INN**, Glen Ellen, with authentic and historic western air, should be on your list. **GUNNER & RUTH** in charge.

Down in the San Fernando valley, where we lived for nearly four years, they're having an epidemic of mice—in Encino and Sherman Oaks—millions of them. Here in Boyes Hot Springs, the frogs are putting out an unearthly din. Back in the midwest, when the frogs start to croak, it was a sign that spring wasn't far off. Beautiful sound—or don't you think so?

**VALLEY OF THE MOON CIGARS**. Finest Christmas gift for men.

Made in the Valley. Phone WE 8-4158. Also at your dealer's.

**DENNY'S COG CLUB**, Boyes, serves mighty tasty tom and jerry, hot buttered rum and other cold weather concoctions. Try us.

**LEE STARRETT**, Masseur, at Bathhouse, Boyes. Massages, slenderizing. You'll look and feel better. Make it a habit.

### **CONTINUING 'WHY NOT USE OUR SCHOOL PLANTS TO CAPACITY? 12 MONTHS A YEAR? ANY REASON WHY NOT?**

(Continuation of speech by Vernon Timmons, Redwood Empire association, courtesy of Lois McVeigh, secretary-manager of Sonoma Valley chamber of commerce.)

Last year at our meeting the possibility of making increased use of existing school facilities by inaugurating a plan whereby schools would be used a greater portion of the year on a four-session basis was discussed. Lois McVeigh contacted a total of 26 high officials in state departments of education with the following results: One favored the plan, 11 opposed it, and 14 were noncommittal.

A rather extensive study was made of the four session arrangement by a committee appointed by Claude L. Reeves, superintendent of schools in Los Angeles. As might be expected, the committee consisted 100 per cent of members of the education profession. They based their study on a system whereby students would attend three out of four quarters during a school year, with vacations varying so that one-fourth of the students would be out of school during any given quarter. Among the many difficulties pointed out by the survey are the following: (1) Difficulty in assigning vacation times to students to the satisfaction of parents, particularly when there is more than one child in the family. (2) The public's resistance to any break with tradition. (3) Difficulties in maintenance of school facilities. (4) The need to reorganize courses of study (i.e.) some courses like trigonometry are one-semester subjects and could not be extended to two quarters and could not be taught adequately in one. (5) Difficulties encountered in transferring pupils from one school to another, particularly



those pupils who transfer between two school systems which vary, one having the present nine months of school and the other the quarter system.

There is no doubt that the objections raised in this study are valid ones and that the problems posed are serious, and that every consideration must be given to them.

Here's the other side of the picture, however. Aliquippa, Pa., was faced with a problem similar to ours. Their superintendent of schools describes it as follows. (Note how it compares with the problem we face.) "Studies and surveys made in Aliquippa in 1827 indicated that the need was imperative for at least 40 additional classrooms, but the borrowing capacity of the school district was less than half enough to finance the building of additional rooms. The situation was rapidly becoming worse and no immediate solution of the building problem was in sight. A study was then made of the possibilities of operating the schools on an all-year basis. The result of the study was that a plan for the operation on an all-year basis was evolved and agreed upon by the board of directors. The plan was inaugurated in July of the 1928-29 school year, in four schools where the shortage was most acute. Later the plan was extended to include all 10 schools in Aliquippa.

"The all-year plan in Aliquippa utilized the school buildings for school purposes for 48 weeks in the year. It provided all children with schooling for 180 days each year."

He goes on to say that the plan adopted consisted in setting up four quarters of 12 weeks each or 60 days each quarters. Two weeks' vacation for everyone was provided at the beginning of July of each year. Two additional weeks were utilized for the regular school holidays at Christmas. The summer quarter began around July 15, the fall quarter about October 10, the winter quarter about January 15 and the spring quarter around April 15. Each child remained on vacation one quarter and attended school three quarters. Pupils were promoted regularly three times each year.

Mr. Wilson confesses that there was open opposition on the part of some parents to attendance at school during the summer quarter. He also states, however, that this opposition did not involve more than 5 per cent of the families. Concessions were made where possible and compromises arrived at that kept the complaints about attendance during the summer quarter to a minimum. He states that most of the families cooperated in the assignment of their children to attend school in the particular quarter that they were enrolled.

Considerable savings were realized as a result of the program, which lasted from 1928 until 1937: A total of \$282,000 was the total amount calculated as savings, a large part of which was debt service



that would have been required had the 40 classrooms originally needed been built. Another large saving was made by reason of the fact that students who failed in one quarter only had to attend one additional quarter instead of a full school year as they would have under the old program.

(More on this interesting subject coming up next issue.)

**GEORGE, the meat maestro at BOYES SPRINGS FOOD CENTER, delights in cutting fine quality meats to your exact order. Poultry. BOYES SPRINGS FOOD CENTER. A one-stop market, where everything you'll want for the holiday feasts is assembled. Take-out License.**

### **DON'T EVER SAY WE DIDN'T WARN YOU**

**COLOR TV:** Don't expect these sets in quantity soon. Output won't even reach 500,000 a year until 1957, and won't hit a million until '58. Manufacturers are trying to bring prices down. Cutting tubes from 40 to as few as 26 has helped; prices, formerly \$1000 plus, now run \$700-plus.

**OLDER PEOPLE'S STEWS:** Special foods to strengthen bones, ward off circulatory diseases and increase longevity—they're coming as processors see a growing market among 18.5 million folks past 60. Thousands of letters flooded the Heinz company's Pittsburgh headquarters following word that Heinz would test-market tasty, unsalted stews (beef, chicken and lamb) for oldsters. The stews—high in proteins, minerals, calcium and iron—are available now by mail order, should hit grocery stores next year.

**HIGH COST OF COLLEGE:** That son or daughter at the university may cost you more this year. Some administrators, to pay faculty members a living wage, are boosting tuition costs by \$50 to \$300. The gulf between costs in state and private schools is widening, with tuition averaging about \$132 in public institutions and \$599 in those which are privately endowed.

**MORTGAGE TIP:** If you've been turned down for a home loan by two lenders in your area, write Housing and Home Finance Administration in Washington. Reply, which you should get in a week, will steer you to the voluntary home mortgage credit committee nearest your home. The 16 regional committees—made up of bankers, realtors and insurance executives—can often find an out-of-town loan when local lenders say "no."

### **LARSON'S LIQUOR & SPORTING GOODS**

**Fine selection of gifts for men. Christmassy bottles.**

**FIELDS UNION SERVICE, Main Corner, Boyes. Union Oil products. Experienced mechanic on duty. Guaranteed service.**

**THE DRIVE-IN (formerly Merry's, Boyes), now under new management. Open 24 hours a day. The food and coffee are wonderful.**